DARKNESS

Copyright 1911, by F. A. Munsey Company By GEORGE ALLAN ENGLAND.

tures.

nexus of ruin. Disguised as everything now was, fallen and disjointed, molder-

ing, blighted by age incalculable, still

the man recognized many familiar fea-

had been; there, the information desk.

Yonder, again, he remembered the little curved counter, where once upon a time a man in uniform had sold tickets

to such as had wanted to visit the

where are they? And in astonishment he stopped, staring.

The view from the tower, though it had told him something of the changes wrought, had given him no adequate conception of their magnitude.

He had expected some remains of human life to show upon the earth.

ture, bore in on him with more ap-palling force than anything he had yet

well might he have been a savage of old times; one of the early barbarians of Britain, perhaps, peering in wonder at the ruins of some deserted Roman

prayer of thanks.

And suddenly, though why he could not have told, the grim engineer's eyes grew wet with tears that ran, unheeded, down his heavy-bearded cheeks.

Continuation of This Story Will Be Found In Tomorrow's

Dr. Leech's New Book

Issue of The Times.

The problem of life after death and of the immortality of the soul are dealt with in the new book by Dr. Samuel V.

Leech, "Recognition, Love, and Immor-

The book is the embodiment of two lectures by the Rev. Dr. Leech, "Recog-

nition and Love in the Celestial Life. and "Immortality, the Crowning En-dowment of Man," both of which have

won considerable fame for their author.

Dr. Leech has dedicated the book to

Theodore Roosevelt in the following

words, "To that incorruptible man and

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Immortality Theme of

tality in the Celestial Life."

Synopsis of Chapters Already Published made his way through the confused After a lapse of hundreds of years Alian Stern, a consulting engineer, and his stenographer, Beatrice Kendrick, awake from an unprecedented sleep in what is left of Stern's former office in the tower of the Metropolitan Building. Everything beneath them has gone to ruin and decay. The old city of New York is now a forcet, and they are apparently the only two alive in the world. They procure skins to cover their nakedness and food from glass jars which have withstood the ravages of time.

CHAPTER VII. The Outer World.

EFORE daybreak the engineer was up again and active. Now that he faced the light of morning, with a thousand difficult practical problems closing in on every hand, he put aside his softer moods, visions and desires, and-like the scientific man he was addressed him-

self to the urgent matters in hand. 'The girl's safe enough alone here for while," thought he, looking in upon her where she lay, calm as a child, folded within the clinging masses of the tigerskin.

'I must be out and away for two or three hours, at the very least. I hope she'll sleep till I get back. If not-

He pondered a moment; then, coming over to the charred remnants of last night's fire, chose a bit of burned wood. With this he scrawled in large, rough letters on a fairly smooth stretch of the

"Back soon. All O. K. Don't worry."
Then, turning, he set out on the long, painful descent again to the earth level.
Garish now, and doubly terrible, since seen with more than double clearness by the graying dawn, the world-ruin seemed to him.

Strong of body and of nerve as he was, he could not help but shudder at the numberless traces of sudden and pittless death which everywhere met his gaze.

Everywhere lay those dust heaps, with here or there a tooth, a ring, a bit of jeweiry showing—everywhere he saw them, all the way down the stairs, in every room and office that he peered into and in the time-ravished confusion.

Strong of body and of nerve as he was, he could not help but shudder at the tangled thickets that grew close up to the age-worn walls of the Metropolitan he could make out a few bits of tottering construction on the south side of what had been Twenty-third street.

But of the street itself no trace remained—no pavement, no sidewalk, no curb. And even so near and so conspicuous an object as the wreck of the Flatiron was now entirely concealed by the dense forest.

Soil had formed thickly over all the wastlingt. into and in the time-ravished confusion

But this was scarcely the time for reflections of any sort. Life called, and labor, and duty: not mourning for the dead world, nor even wonder or pity at the tragedy which had so mysteriously

And as the man made his way over and through the universal wreckage he took counsel with himself.

cealed by the dense forest.

Soil had formed thickly over all the surface. Huge oaks and pines flourished there as confidently as though in the heart of the Maine forest, crowding ash and beech for room.

Under the man's feet, even as he stood close by the building—which was thickly overgrown with ivy and with ferns and bushes rooted in the crannies—the pineneedles bent in deep pungent beds.

Birch, maple, poplar, and all the natives of the American woods shoulding deach other lustily. By the state of the fresh young leaves, just bursting their sheaths, Stern knew the season was mid-May.

Through the wind-swayed branches "First of all, water!" thought he. "We can't depend on the bottled supply. Of course, there's the Hudson; but it's brakish, if not downright salt. I've got to find some fresh and pure supply, close at hand. That's the prime necessity of life.

"What with the canned stuff, and such game as I can kill, there's bound to be food enough for a while. But a good water supply we must have and at once!"

Tet. prindent rather for the sake of the sale of the sale and the ply. Of course, there's the Hudson; but it's brakish, if not downright salt.

at once:

Yet, prudent rather for the sake of
Beatrice than for his own, he decided
that he ought not to issue out, unarmed, into this new and savage world,

"I've got to have an ax, first of all," said he. "That's man's first need in any wilderness. Where shall I find one?"

He thought a moment.

'Ah! In the basements!" exclaimed

"Maybe I can locate an engineom, a storeroom or something of that
rt. There's sure to be tools of some
rt in a place like that." And, laying off the bearskin, he prepared to explore the regions under the ground level. He used more than half an hour, through devious ways and hard labor, to make his way to the desired spot.

ancient stairway, leading down, he But by clambering down one of the elevator shafts, digging toes and fin-gers into the crevices in the metal ramework and the cracks in the convaulted subcellar, festooned with webs, damp, noisome and obscure. Considerable light glimmered in from

and this awoke him to a new sense of

mishap was liable.

"Eternal vigilance!" he whispered to himself. Then, dismissing useless fears, he set about the task in hand.

By the dim illumination from above he was able to take cognizance of the musty-smelling place, which, on the whole, was in a better state of repair whole, was in a better state of repair the set of the state of the whole, was in a better state of repair whole, was the state of the state of

musty-smelling place, which, on the whole, was in a better state of repair than the arcade. The first cellar yielded nothing of value to him, but, making his way through a low-vaulted door, he chanced into what must have been the of the smaller auxiliary engine of the smaller auxillary engine

This, he found, contained a battery of four dynamos, a small seepage pump and a crumbling marble switchboard, with part of the wiring still compara-

At sight of all this valuable machin-sry, scaled and pitted with rust, Stern's brows contracted with a feeling akin to pain. The engineer loved mechanism

And now these mournful relics, strange as that may seem, affected him more strongly than the little heaps of dust which marked the spots where human beings had fallen in sudden, in-

scapable death. Yet even so, he had no time for mus

ing.
"Tools!" cried he, peering about the dim-lit vault. "Tools-I must have some. Till I find tools I'm helpless."
Search as he might, he discovered no ax in the place, but in the place of it he unearthed a sledge-hammer. Though corroded, it was still quite serviceable. Oddly enough, the oak handle was al-

ost intact.
"Kyanized wood, probably," reflected
e, as he laid the sledge to one side
nd began delying into a bed of dust
nat had evidently been a workbench.
Ah! And here's a chise!! A spanner. 6! A heap of rusty old wire nails!" Delightedly he examined these treas-

"They're worth more to me, he exulted. "than all the gold between here
and what's left of San Francisco!"
He found nothing more of value in
the litter. Everything else was rusted
beyond use. So, having convinced himself that nothing else remained, he
gathered up h's finds and started back
whence he had come.

whence he had come.

After some quarter-hour of hard labor he managed to transport everything up into the arcade.

"Now for a glimpse of the outer world!" quoth he.

Getpuing the miedge well in hand, he

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About him he looked, trying to get his bearing in that strange milieu.

"Why," said he, quite slowly, "it's it's just as though some cosmic jester, all-powerful, had scooped up the fragments of a ruined city and tossed them pell-mell into the core of the Adirondacks! It's horrible—ghastly—incred-their.

LOST—Saturday afternoon, gold watch, Hun ter case; monogram M. E. M. on outsid and long chain with turquoise set and slide Reward 2701 14th st. N. W. LOST-Gold watch and black silk feb with gold crown engraved with M. E. N. Re-ward if returned to 1412 Chapin st. N. W. Dazed and awed, he stood as in a dream, a strange figure with his mane of hair, his flaming, trailing beard, his rags (for he had left the bearskin in the arcade), his bare and muscular arm, knotted as he held the sledge over his shoulder.

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camp.

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Farther off among the woods, a robin's throaty morning notes drifted to him on the odorous breeze. A wren, surprisingly tame, chippered busily. It hopped about not ten feet from him, entirely fearless.

Stern realized that it was now seeing a man for the first time in its life and that it had no fear. His bushy brows contracted as he watched the little brown body jumping from twig to twig in the pine above him.

A deep, full breath he drew. Higher, still higher, he raised his head. Farthrough the leafy screen he saw the overbending arch of sky in tiny patches of turquoise. BOOKKEEPER—Double-entry; state experience and salary wanted. Apply BOX 567.
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"The same old world, after all—the same, in spite of everything—thank God!" he whispered, his very tone a prayer of thanks.

And suddenly, though COPELAND COMPANY, 409 11th st. N.

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